STATE OF GEORGIA

REVISED TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Ocmulgee River Basin

SEDIMENT (Biota/Habitat Impacted)—0% REDUCTION REQUIRED

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TMDL Implementation Plans are platforms for establishing a course of actions to restore the quality of impaired water bodies in a watershed. They are intended as a continuing process that may be revised as new conditions and information warrant. Procedures will be developed to track and evaluate the implementation of the management practices and activities identified in the plans. Once restored, appropriate management practices and activities will be continued to maintain the water bodies. The overall goal of the Plan is to define a set of actions that will help achieve water quality standards in the state of Georgia.

This Implementation Plan is applicable to the following segments in the Ocmulgee River Basin:

Impaired Waterbody	Impaired Stream Location
1. Big Sandy Creek	Upstream of Indian Springs
2. Butlers Creek	Tributary to Ocmulgee River
3. Eightmile Creek	Tributary to Towaliga River
4. Gladesville Creek	Headwaters to Little Falling Creek
5. Hansford Branch	Monroe County
6. Harmon Pye Branch	Tributary to Wise Creek
7. Herds Creek	Downstream of Ga. Hwy 212 to Ocmulgee River
8. Long Branch	Tributary to Ocmulgee River
9. Mill Dam Creek	Monroe County
10. Phinazee Creek	Lamar and Monroe Counties
11. Red Creek	Tributary to Rocky Creek
12. Rocky Creek	Jasper County
13. Rocky Creek	Upstream of Big Sandy Creek
14. Rocky Creek	Downstream of English Road (CR152) to Towaliga River
15. Rocky Creek	Upstream of Lake Wildwood
16. Rum Creek	Rum and Towns Creek, Upstream of Lake Juliette
17. Sand Branch	Tributary to Towaliga River
18. Scoggins Creek	Tributary to Ocmulgee River

19. Third Branch	Tributary to Ocmulgee River
20. Tobesofkee Creek	Barnesville to Cole Creek
21. Tobesofkee Creek*	Cole Creek to Todd Creek
22. Tobesofkee Creek*	Todd Creek to Little Tobesofkee Creek
23. Tobler Creek	Tributary to Ocmulgee River
24. Town Branch	Downstream of Jackson South WPCP to Aboothlacoosta Creek
25. Walnut Creek	Downstream of Hwy 42
26. White Creek	Lamar and Monroe Counties
27. Wise Creek	Headwaters to Ocmulgee River

*Segments added by the U.S. EPA to Georgia's 2000 303(d) list (Appendix B)

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) developed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in 2002 for sediment for streams in the Ocmulgee River Basin with biota/habitat-impacted designation on Georgia's 2000 Section 303(d) List. The biota/habitat-impacted designation indicates that studies have shown a modification of the biological community, which is generally caused by habitat loss due to stream sedimentation. The narrative sediment standard is to prevent objectionable conditions that interfere with legitimate water uses, as stated in Georgia's Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control Chapter 391-3-6-.03(5)(c):

> "All waters shall be free from material related to municipal, industrial, or other discharges which produce turbidity, color, odor or other objectionable conditions which interfere with legitimate water uses."

Twenty-seven of the listed segments that were found to be impaired due to sediment have shown, based on the current estimated annual loading for the segments, that no reduction in sediment loading is needed to meet water quality standards.

DISCUSSION OF POLLUTANT

Erosion and sedimentation are a major disturbance to stream habitats. Excessive sediment can cause several changes to a stream, such as making the stream shallower and wider, thus affecting the stream's temperature, dissolved oxygen, flow rate and velocity. Excess sediment loads can be detrimental to aquatic life by interfering with photosynthesis, respiration, growth, and reproduction. Sediment can also carry attached nutrients, pesticides, and metals into streams. High turbidity

associated with sediment loads also impairs recreational uses and increases the cost of treating drinking water.

POLLUTANT SOURCES

The current loading on these twenty-seven segments is below the TMDL. It has been determined that the sediment found in these segments is due to past land use practices and is referred to as “legacy” sediment. It is believed that if sediment loads are maintained at current levels then streams will repair themselves over time.

PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TMDL

Although sediment load reductions are not needed for these 27 segments, compliance with NPDES permits, diligent application of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act and local ordinances to land disturbing activities, and application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control sediment delivery from other activities will be necessary to meet the TMDL for these segments. Management practices that may be used to help maintain average annual sediment loads at current levels include:

- Compliance with NPDES permit limits and requirements
- Implementation of GFC’s Best Management Practices for Forestry
- Adoption of NRCS Conservation Practices
- Adherence to the Mined Land Use Plan prepared as part of the Surface Mining Permit Application
- Adoption of proper unpaved road maintenance practices
- Implementation of Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans for land disturbing activities
- Mitigation and prevention of stream bank erosion due to increased streamflow and velocities caused by urban runoff

MONITORING PLAN

The Ocmulgee River Basin along with the Oconee and Altamaha River Basins were the basins of focused monitoring in 1999 and will again receive focused monitoring in 2004. One goal of the focused basin monitoring is to continue to monitor 303(d) listed waters. Therefore, additional monitoring of these streams will be initiated as appropriate during the next monitoring cycle to determine if there has been improvement in habitat and biological communities.

REFERENCES

Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6-.03, Water Use Classifications and Water Quality Standards, May 2002.

GAEPD, 2002. Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Forty-One Stream Segments in the Ocmulgee River Basin for Sediment (Biota Impacted). January 2002.

USEPA, 2002. Total Maximum Daily Load for Sediment in the Tobesofkee Creek Watershed, Ocmulgee River Basin. February 2002.